



National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials  
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February 28, 2013

## Testimony RE: HB 6366 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

Submitted by Cathy Branch Stebbins

Good Afternoon Chairmen and to the members of the Housing Committee, my name is Cathy Branch Stebbins and I am the executive director for CONN-NAHRO, the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials, also known as Connecticut's membership association for public housing authorities. Over 130 housing authorities in Connecticut are members and along with our affiliate organizations, CONN-NAHRO provides outreach to over 400 individuals.

Our membership strongly supports HB 6366 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, specifically Section 17 (b) which will expand the Interagency Council on Affordable Housing's membership to include representation by Connecticut NAHRO (see highlighted lines 429 through 432 below):

Sec. 17. Subsection (b) of section 8-37nnn of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2013):

(b) The council shall consist of the following members: (1) The Commissioners of Social Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Children and Families, Correction, [and] Economic and Community Development and Education and Developmental Services, or their designees; (2) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or his or her designee; (3) the executive director of the Partnership for Strong Communities, or his or her designee; (4) the executive director of the Connecticut Housing Coalition, or his or her designee; (5) the executive director of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, or his or her designee; (6) the executive director of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, or his or her designee; (7) one member, appointed by the members specified in subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive, of this subsection, who shall be a member of the Connecticut National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials; (8) two members, appointed by the members specified in subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive, of this subsection, who shall be tenants receiving state housing assistance; and [(8)] (9) one member, appointed by the members specified in subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive, of this subsection, who shall be a state resident eligible to receive state housing assistance. The Governor shall designate a member of the council to serve as chairperson.

This bill would expand the composition of the membership of the Interagency Council on Affordable Housing to include CONN-NAHRO. Please note that we have requested that the bill language be slightly modified, designating CONN-NAHRO's President or his or her designee to be the Council member. OPM staff supports this language modification.

Thank you for your support of HB 6366 and for including the voice of public housing authorities on this Council.

Sincerely,

(jointly submitted by)

Neil Griffin, Jr., President, CONN-NAHRO

Jeffrey Arn, Vice Chairman, Housing & Legislation Committee, CONN-NAHRO

Cathy Branch Stebbins, Executive Director, CONN-NAHRO

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